



# City of Carlsbad

## Office of the Chief of Police

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### **MOTORCYCLE SAFETY A FOCUS**

#### **PUBLIC INVITED TO "ULTIMATE" POLICE MOTORCYCLE COMPETITION**

Motorcyclists are riding the roadways in greater numbers than ever before. Helping to fuel this increase most recently is the high cost of gas. In San Diego County in 2006, there were 1,038 injury collisions involving motorcycles and 39 fatalities. According to the California Highway Patrol, the number of motorcyclists killed in collisions statewide has increased more than 140 percent during the past 10 years.

Carlsbad Police Department Traffic Division, in conjunction with the San Diego County Motor Officers' Association, is offering a unique opportunity for the public to see some of the best professional riders in the region at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Terry Bennett Memorial Police Motor Competition September 11-12, at Legoland California.

Over 70 motor officers from throughout the southwest will be riding BMW, Harley-Davidson, Honda, and Kawasaki police motorcycles, and putting their skills to the test as they negotiate courses consisting of various cone patterns that allow for both slow and higher speed combined skills.

"We are pleased to provide this unique opportunity for the public to learn skills and tips by watching professional riders. All riders, both new and veteran, can benefit from sharpening their skills," said Carlsbad Police Traffic Sergeant Chris Boyd. "This is especially important for those riders who may not have ridden in some years or those who ride only periodically. The traffic division's number one priority is road safety and this is one more way we can help the public be safe on our streets," said Boyd.

Thursday, September 11 is an all-day practice and training day. On Friday, September 12, the opening ceremonies begin at 7 a.m. with competition expected to conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The event is open and free to the public both days (parking \$8). In addition, there will be numerous vendor booths promoting motorcycles and equipment, and static displays including historic police vehicles. Spectators and participants should bring their own chairs; food and beverages will be available.

**MORE**

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***Carlsbad Police Department offers these motorcycle safety tips to riders:***

- Get trained and licensed. If you're a new rider, take a motorcycle riders' course. California Motorcyclist Safety Program training sites are located throughout California. CMSP is California's official motorcycle safety and training program administered by the CHP. To enroll, call 1(877) RIDE-411 or visit [www.ca-msp.org](http://www.ca-msp.org).
- Buy the appropriate motorcycle for your needs and skills.
- After completing a motorcycle training course, practice before going out on the street until use of all controls becomes automatic.
- Remember that a motorcyclist must abide by the same traffic rules and regulations as other motorists.
- Wear protective gear -- all the gear, all the time -- including a helmet manufactured to the standards set by the DOT. Other protective gear includes eye and face protection. Wear long pants, gloves, boots, and a durable long-sleeved jacket.
- Ride unimpaired by alcohol or other drugs.
- Ride within your own skill limits.
- Be a lifelong learner by taking refresher rider courses.
- Follow all the rules of the road. Don't speed! Forty percent of motorcyclists who died in crashes were speeding.
- Keep an eye out for vehicles coming from driveways and side streets.
- Make sure your headlight is on every time you ride.
- Don't let anyone ride with you until you are skilled at riding in all kinds of conditions.
- Treat other motorists with courtesy and respect.
- Avoid tailgating.
- Avoid riding between lanes of slow moving or stopped traffic.
- Check the rearview mirrors before changing lanes or stopping. When changing lanes, use signals and make a visual check to assure that you can change safely.
- Watch the road surface and traffic ahead to anticipate problems and road hazards.
- Position yourself to be seen. Avoid car's blind spots - to the left and right rear of the vehicle.
- Wear brightly colored, preferably fluorescent, clothing. Use retro-reflective materials on clothing and motorcycle, especially at night.
- Keep your motorcycle in top working order. Before each day's riding, perform a visual and operational check of the motorcycle and its operating systems. Check lights, turn signals, tires, brakes, fuel and oil levels, mirrors, and control cables.

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